

2024 -- S 2510

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LC005076
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

SENATE RESOLUTION

RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING RHODE ISLAND ENERGY IN CONJUNCTION WITH
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL FOR NEW, MULTI-
YEAR ELECTRIC VEHICLE PROGRAMMING

Introduced By: Senators Ujifusa, Gu, Zurier, Ciccone, DiPalma, Mack, McKenney, Bell,
Pearson, and Euer

Date Introduced: March 01, 2024

Referred To: Senate Commerce

1 WHEREAS, Rhode Island is committed to reducing economy-wide greenhouse gas
2 emissions 45 percent under 1990 levels and reaching net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 per the
3 Act on Climate; and

4 WHEREAS, The transportation sector accounts for 38 percent of Rhode Island's
5 greenhouse gas emissions and replacing gasoline-powered vehicles with electric vehicles charged
6 on the electric grid in Rhode Island reduces per-mile emissions substantially; and

7 WHEREAS, The 2022 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan identifies
8 incentivizing electric mobility as a key climate strategy; and

9 WHEREAS, Access to electric vehicle charging is one of the primary barriers facing
10 consumers who want to make the switch from a gas-powered vehicle to an electric vehicle; and

11 WHEREAS, Currently, there are no state or utility incentives to build out more electric
12 vehicle charging infrastructure for drivers in Rhode Island; and

13 WHEREAS, Make Ready programs, in which electric utilities cover the costs of needed
14 wiring upgrades to bring electric service to the charging pad for electric vehicle charging stations,
15 significantly bring down the costs of installing electric vehicle charging stations for site hosts;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Make Ready programs can be coupled with rebates for electric vehicle
18 supply equipment to further bring down the cost of installing charging; and

19 WHEREAS, Increased adoption of electric vehicles exerts a downward pressure on

1 electricity rates; and

2 WHEREAS, Rhode Island Energy does not currently offer any electric vehicle charging
3 infrastructure incentives; now, therefore be it

4 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby requests Rhode Island
5 Energy to issue a proposal for new, multi-year electric vehicle programming, to the Public
6 Utilities Commission no later than six months after the effective date of this resolution; and be it
7 further

8 RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby requests that said proposal shall include the
9 following:

10 • Comprehensive Make Ready offerings for the following segments: residential
11 consumers (including multi-unit dwellings), workplaces, public charging sites, and fleets (light-,
12 medium- and heavy-duty);

13 • Corresponding rebates for electric vehicle supply equipment in all the segments
14 referenced above;

15 • Greater incentive levels for low-income people or people who live in disadvantaged
16 communities;

17 • Off-peak charging rebates that:

18 (1) Are open for participation via vehicle telematics, smart chargers, or external
19 telematics devices;

20 (2) Are available for fleet vehicles as well as residential customers;

21 (3) Account for all of the benefits of charging off-peak, including:

22 (i) Avoided generation costs;

23 (ii) Avoided transmission and distribution costs;

24 (iii) Avoided emissions and emission costs;

25 (iv) Avoided reliability costs;

26 (v) Avoided costs due to induced price effects; and

27 (vi) Non-energy benefits; and

28 • Specific offerings to make charging more available to residents of multi-unit buildings
29 or people who park their vehicle on the street, such as curbside or pole-mounted charging pilots;
30 and be it further

31 RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby requests the Public Utilities Commission to issue at
32 least one order that responds to Rhode Island Energy's proposal no later than 12 months after the
33 passage of this resolution; and be it further

34 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to

- 1 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Chair of the Public Utilities Commission
- 2 and the President of Rhode Island Energy.

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